



120 State Street - Montpelier, VT 05620-2501 - (802) 828-3135 - www.education.vermont.gov

Vermont One of Five States Selected for National Education Initiative

MONTPELIER – Education Secretary Armando Vilaseca announced today that Vermont is one of five states selected by University of Kansas researchers to implement a five-year, \$24.5 million K-eighth grade national education initiative called SWIFT (Schoolwide Integrated Framework for Transformation).

Vermont, New Hampshire, Maryland, Mississippi and Oregon were chosen, based on criteria that included having rural, urban and high-need districts. Each of the five state education agencies, in collaboration with the SWIFT Center, has identified four local supervisory unions to participate in the grant program. In Vermont, those are Grand Isle Supervisory Union, Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union, Windham Southeast Supervisory Union, and Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union. Within each district, four schools will participate.

Through the grant, the Center will support schools in the four supervisory unions primarily by providing national experts to help them focus on special areas of concern, such as behavior, academics, family engagement, and other issues.

"We are thrilled to be one of the five states selected," said Karin Edwards, Integrated Support for Learning Director at the Agency of Education. "Vermont was selected through a competitive process. The resources that SWIFT will bring to the state and the Supervisory Unions involved build our capacity to improve outcomes for all students."

The Center is housed at the University of Kansas and funded by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs.

Learn more about SWIFT here: <http://www.swiftschools.org/>.

Please contact John Fischer, Deputy Commissioner, at (802) 828-0488 or Karin Edwards, Director of Integrated Support for Learning (preK-middle), at (802) 828-1622 with questions.

###